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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,775	11/24/2003	Chuan-Ping Hou	N1085-00192	4926
8933	7590	02/15/2005	[TSMC2003-028]	
DUANE MORRIS, LLP				
IP DEPARTMENT				
ONE LIBERTY PLACE				
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-7396				
EXAMINER				
KANG, DONGHEE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2811				

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CT

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,775

Applicant(s)

HOU ET AL.

Examiner

Donghee Kang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-31, 33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/24/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Acknowledgment is made of receipt of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449) filed November 24, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim **30** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The limitation "any undercut" is unclear because independent claim 29 does not have any undercut. Claim 29 recites "**without undercut**".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims **29, 31 & 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yu (US 6,562,665).

Re claim 29, Yu teaches an integrated circuit including a field effect transistor, the field effect transistor comprising (Fig.15):

a conductive region (314) on a substrate (304) having an isolation layer (302) formed thereon, the isolation layer being substantially without undercut at the region within the isolation layer beneath the conductive region; a gate (344) on the conductive region; and source/drain (S/D) region within the conductive region and adjacent to the gate.

Re claim 31, Yu teaches the conductive region has a mesa structure.

Re claim 33, Yu teaches a method for forming field effect transistors, comprising (Figs. 5-15):

forming at least one conductive region (314) over an isolation layer (302) formed on a substrate (304); forming a sacrificial dielectric layer (328 & 334) over an the isolation layer and adjacent to said at least one conductive region; forming a gate dielectric layer (342) over said at least one conductive region, and performing a cleaning process prior to forming said gate dielectric layer (Col.6, line 63- Col.7, line 3) ,wherein said sacrificial dielectric layer is formed to a thickness sufficient to substantially protect said at least one conductive region from undercut in the isolation layer from said cleaning process.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim **34** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu (US 6,562,665) in view of Yoon (US 6,489,201).

Yu does not explicitly teach using HF solution for cleaning process. Yoon teaches HF cleaning process (see abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use HF solution for cleaning process as taught by Yoon in Yu's method since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-28 & 32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record neither teach nor make it obvious as a whole the claimed limitation of the instant application, as recited in claims 1, 12 & 19, either taken alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donghee Kang whose telephone number is 571-272-1656. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Donghee Kang, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2811

dhk